



Robert Ernest
Theology 1
Mundelein Seminary
Notre Dame, Clarendon Hills
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Hello! My name is Robert Ernest, I am 22 years old and entering my fifth year in seminary, and my first year at Mundelein. I am excited to be returning to seminary and grateful for the opportunity to get together with the Serra Club and thank you for all that you do for the seminarians. In addition to my mom and dad, I have an older sister (25) and a younger brother (19) in my immediate family. I am incredibly grateful to them for the love and support they have given to me as I pursue the priesthood. Growing up my family was always very close; furthermore, I was fortunate enough to grow up in a family that instilled in me the importance of the faith.

The first time I ever considered the priesthood was during a Sunday Mass late into my freshman year of high school. It was right after I had received Communion, and I was kneeling in the pew watching the priest clean the altar when I was overcome by the beauty of the priesthood. I remember crying in the pew while thinking how amazing it is to be able to serve a parish and consecrate the Eucharist. After that experience I began to pray more seriously about my vocation.

By the time my sophomore year in high school began, I had mostly forgotten about the priesthood and was focused on other things. However, it was also this same year when Father Steven Borello was assigned to my parish. Father Steve lived out the qualities that first drew me to the priesthood which led me to reconsider priesthood more seriously.

During my junior year of high school, I got more involved at my parish. I started to serve Mass as an emcee which gave me a new love for the Eucharist, the priesthood and the Mass. That year I also started to attend daily Mass before school. After getting involved in my parish I could never get the priesthood out of my mind. By the end of my junior year I knew was being called to and developing a growing desire to enter seminary.

This past May I graduated from St. John Vianney College Seminary. I am incredibly grateful for all that I received from my four years there. From growth in the spiritual life, to fun and fraternity, to a semester in Rome, I know that I will carry the many graces that I have received through my time at St. John Vianney with me for the rest of my life. As I begin my next phase of formation at Mundelein, I thank God for the life-changing gift of his love and the gift of my love for him and his people which he has inspired.